# The Art of Home Visitation Presented by Sis Percy Tanisaki Saint Augustine Catholic Church

### How are pastors reaching lapsed Catholics and non-Catholics?

## Home Visitation - Most Preferred and Most Effective Form of Apostolic Work of the Legion of Mary

Home visitation, which the Handbook calls, "a characteristic of the Legion" is also called by the Handbook, AS "the preferred work of the Legion."

#### Door to Door visitation is literally door to door. Every soul counts.

"Door-to-door visitation" means calling on every home on an assigned street or in an assigned area with the intention of enhancing the spiritual lives of those visited, as well as our own. It is a work that every praesidia must strive to undertake regularly.

The Visitation of Mary to the house of her cousin Elizabeth is the 'SPIRIT OF **HOME VISITATION" - Bringing Christ to** another person through personal contact that involves great risk and selfsacrifice.

## VISITATION IS NOT ONLY A SOCIAL VISIT. ITS ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO BRING CHRIST TO A SOUL THROUGH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The visitation of the Legionary is not simply a social visit although its immediate object is to establish friendship and trust. Ultimately, the legionary must bring Jesus into the home. We must talk religion at some point. We are in the business of saving souls.

**Elements of Home Visitation Proclaiming the Gospel** Highly organized effort. **Listening and Praying** Follow-up **SEEK CONVERSIONS TO THE CATHOLIC CHUCH** 

#### THE ENOCUNTER AT THE DOOR WHAT WE SAY MATTERS. HOW WE SAY IT MATTERS. WHAT WE DON'T SAY MATTERS THE MOST!!!

### To summarize, we must strive for the following when doing our home visitation:

- Friendliness
- Develop a rapport Questions asked indirectly
- Opportunity for return visit

#### Tips for Home Visitation:

1. In the very first moment of contact, it is important to smile. Other important qualities: sincerity, genuineness, humility, friendliness, cheerfulness, sense of humor. Our manners must be impeccable, we must show absolute respect for property, and we should maintain a neat appearance and confident posture.

- 2 Leave a good impression. Talk 30%; Listen 70%.
- 3 Say a little prayer as you approach the home.
- 4 Try not to ask prying questions. Ask questions in a non-threatening way.
- 5 Offer up difficult assignments. Show extra kindness.
- 6 Don't argue. Allow people to vent their feelings

7 Do not ask if people have a few minutes, because they will most likely say, "NO." 8 Seek to establish a friendship and a personal rapport. Leave the door open for a next visit. 9 Mention that you are visiting all homes in the area, that you are visiting "our neighbors." 10 Don't talk too loudly as you are leaving, or laugh.

11 Legion aims for quality over quantity of visits.

12 It is important to take notes on each visit, discreetly, before you visit the next home. Keep these notes in an appropriate notebook.

13 One of the Legionaries should carry a serviceable bag for the following items: Catholic Packets, Bulletins, EWTN schedules